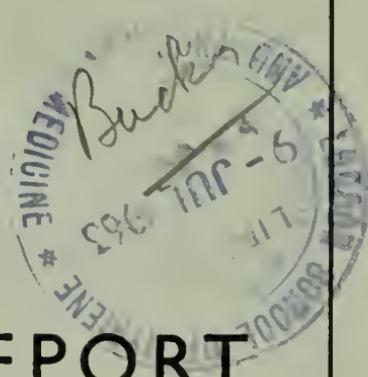


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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER

of

## HEALTH

for the year

1956

Ans.



URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1956

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*Chairman of the Council : Councillor E. R. STANIFORD, J.P.*

### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman : Councillor W. CALDWELL*

*Councillors : Mrs. J. RAMSBOTHAM, C. HEAD,  
E. R. STANIFORD, J. W. HARMAN, L. EASTGATE*

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)  
(*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B.,  
the Urban Districts of Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the  
Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area M.O.  
for North Bucks and Divisional M.O. for the North Bucks Division  
and the Buckingham and Winslow District.*)

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :*

F. SEYMOUR, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector :*

J. F. SMITHIE, M.I.MUN.B., M.R.S.H.

*Additional Public Health Inspector :*

N. J. ADAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban  
District of Bletchley

14th June, 1957

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Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Ramsbotham and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

The birth rate shows a rise of 2.4 per 1,000 on the previous year and is 4.3 points higher than that for the rest of the county. This is very satisfactory. It is in fact the second highest birth rate of the 20 County Districts.

The death rate shows a satisfactory drop and is 3.4 points below that for the rest of the county and is the lowest rate of the county districts. Death from cancer showed a drop of nearly half, but deaths from heart and allied diseases were about the same. The two groups accounted for 65 of the total of 107 deaths.

Another satisfactory drop occurred in the infantile mortality rate with a figure of 15.4 per 1,000 live births as against 17.8 in 1955. The rate for England and Wales was 23.8.

In the realm of infectious diseases it is a pleasure to report that no case of anterior poliomyelitis was notified. You will remember that in the previous year 11 cases were notified, nine were confirmed and there was, unfortunately, one death.

The introduction of 'polio' vaccine was a great advance in the fight against this disease. Although very limited quantities of the vaccine were available, 73 of the 474 Bletchley children registered, obtained the benefit of this protection. It was hoped that much larger quantities would be available towards the end of the year so that the remaining children registered could be immunised, but unfortunately due to production difficulties this was not so, and as I write there still remain a number of children to be treated.

It is hoped to have the list completed by the end of June, 1957, after which a start can be made on those children who registered later.

In conclusion, I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. R. L. Sherwood; your Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. F. Smithie, and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

## SECTION A

### VITAL STATISTICS

				1955	1956
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	4456	4456
Population	...	...	...	13060	13070
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	3920	4094
Rateable Value (1st April)	...	...	...	£78,098	£200,672
Rate per £1	...	...	...	27/-	17/6
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£325/8/2	£836/2/8

### BIRTHS:

Legitimate	...	...	...	Males	115	118
				Females	106	133
Illegitimate	...	...	...	Males	2	7
				Females	2	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...				17.5	19.9
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—						
Bucks County	...	...	...		15.4	16.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—						
England and Wales	...	...	...		15.0	15.7
Still Births	...	...	...	Males	1	6
				Females	5	2

### DEATHS:

			Males	54	69
			Females	51	38
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...			8.8	8.2
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—					
Bucks County	...	...		9.8	9.9
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—					
England and Wales	...	...		11.7	11.7
Maternal Mortality	...	...		Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and					
Wales	...	...		0.64	0.56
Maternal Mortality—Bucks County	...			0.31	0.43

## INFANTILE MORTALITY :

		1955	1956
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births ...	...	17.8	15.4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...		20.0	17.1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales		24.9	23.8

## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

		1955			1956		
		M	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0	1	1	0	0	0
Measles	...	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cancer	...	10	13	23	9	3	12
Leukaemia	...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Diabetes	...	1	1	2	1	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	7	5	12	5	8	13
Heart Disease	...	23	11	34	20	13	33
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	1	1	2	4	3	7
Influenza	...	0	1	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	2	7	9	4	2	6
Bronchitis	...	5	2	7	4	6	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases	...	2	1	3	3	0	3
Nephritis	...	0	2	2	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	...	1	0	1	1	0	1
Accidents	...	1	3	4	8	1	9
Suicide	...	0	0	0	1	1	2
All Other Causes	...	1	2	3	5	1	6
Totals	...	54	51	105	69	38	107

## **SECTION B**

# **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

### **LABORATORY SERVICES**

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Bedford, Luton and Oxford. Samples of Water and Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICES**

These services are administered by the County Council. An Ambulance Station with three Ambulances, two Sitting Case Cars and two Buses has been established in the Town which has dealt satisfactorily with all general cases including accidents.

### **NURSING FACILITIES**

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

### **CLINICS**

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare: This Clinic has been held weekly at the Clinic in Bletchley Road. The voluntary committee, District Nurses and Health Visitor attended each time and a doctor attended once a fortnight. The Mobile Welfare Unit also visited the town once a month to deal with the increased population in Far Bletchley. Due to increased attendance in this area the mobile unit has been converted to a static one and visits twice monthly in St. Mary's Parish Hall. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time, ungrudgingly, to this work. The total number of children who attended during the year was 2,531.

(b) Chest Clinic: This clinic continues to do excellent work. It is a self-contained unit complete with X-ray apparatus, etc., and is under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician. Sessions are held weekly at the Clinic, Bletchley Road.

(c) Physiotherapy Clinic: This Clinic, which is under the aegis of the British Red Cross Society and directed by P. H. Diddams, Esq., M.S.S.A. performed another year of excellent service to the public. It has at last acquired more commodious accommodation which was recently opened by the Bishop of Buckingham.

(d) Ophthalmic Clinic: An ophthalmic surgeon and an orthoptist hold weekly clinics at Bletchley Road. In addition there is a special session on the first Saturday of each month for school children.

(e) Dermatological Clinic: A specialist in skin diseases attends twice monthly.

(f) Dental Clinic: This clinic continues to do very good work amongst the school children. A full time dental surgeon attends.

(g) Toddlers' Clinic : Due to increased work at the Child Welfare Clinic a special clinic was instituted for the toddlers. This is held on the fourth Friday of each month.

(h) Health Visiting : Three whole time Health Visitors have been appointed to the Bletchley area and they are doing excellent work.

(i) Speech Therapy : A qualified Speech Therapist attends weekly and is doing very excellent work among school children.

(j) Care of the Blind : The Home Teacher for the Blind has headquarters at Bletchley Road Clinic, and attends there weekly.

(k) Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic : Late in the year negotiations were started for the purpose of opening a clinic in Bletchley and I am glad to report that weekly sessions started in January, 1957. The Clinic is attended by a specialist from Aylesbury.

All of these services, except Physiotherapy, are administered by the County Health Department, the Regional Hospital Board, or both and all are housed in the Bletchley Road building which was originally intended as a School Clinic and Child Welfare Clinic only.

At last I am glad to report that we are likely to get a centre in Bletchley which will house all the above services, plus some additional departments. When this will be I do not yet know, but I hope it will be soon, owing to the urgency created by the continuing expansion of the town.

## 5. HOSPITALS

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital  
Bedford General Hospital  
Creaton Sanatorium  
London Hospitals  
Northampton General  
Royal Bucks Hospital  
St. John's Hospital, Stone  
Slade Hospital, Oxford  
Stoke Mandeville Hospital  
Tindal General Hospital

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service, administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 241 cases were assisted during the year.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### A. WATER

The new filtration plant at Sandhouse came into operation in October, with immediate improvement in the appearance and quality of the water. Clear, sparkling water at good pressure is now available throughout the district.

Bacteriological samples were taken at intervals from various points as shown below :—

		Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml.
1	House	Nil
2	Public House	Nil
3	Factory	Nil
4	Stand pipe	Nil
5	House	Nil
6	School	Nil

#### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

	Parts per 100,000
Suspended Solids	Nil
Dissolved Solids	27.12
Iron (as Fe)	0.2
Chloride (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	1.9
Free Ammonia	0.024
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.018
Nitrate (as N <sub>2</sub> )	0.04
Nitrite	Faint trace
Oxygen consumed from Permanganate	0.0064
pH value	6.9
Temporary hardness	9.57
Permanent hardness	7.57

#### B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The new sewage works has functioned well and presents an attractive appearance to any visitor.

Trade effluent again caused trouble and considerable effort has been necessary to eliminate the cause of unpleasant smells. At the end of the year this problem appeared to be almost solved, with the ready co-operation of the firms and trades concerned.

#### C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

No flooding has taken place since the River Ouse at Simpson was widened in 1955. The condition of the River Ouse has remained satisfactory.

#### D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A few isolated houses are not yet on main drainage.

#### E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly refuse collection service has been maintained. Two sides loading vehicles and one rear loading compressor-type van are engaged on this work. Controlled tipping is efficiently carried out with the aid of a Muir-Hill hydraulic-loader-tractor for covering up the refuse. The new tip near Salden Wood has not yet been brought into use.

#### F. SHOPS ACT.

No contraventions have been observed.

#### G. MARKET.

This is held weekly together with the cattle market and regular inspections were made of both.

#### H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

No complaints were received during the year. The advent of the Clean Air Bill will not greatly affect Bletchley as all post-war houses are provided with grates to burn smokeless fuel and the new factories are not of the type which create any further atmospheric pollution. Some annoyance is caused to residents in the vicinity of Bletchley Station by smoke from engines standing there. It is hoped that the replacement of steam by diesel engines will see a big improvement in this respect.

#### I. SWIMMING POOL

The current financial difficulties have prevented a start being made on the proposed swimming bath.

# REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

## INSPECTOR, MR. J. F. SMITHIE

As in previous years the continuing expansion of the town has called for much hard work on the surveying and engineering side.

The vital services of water supply, drainage, refuse disposal, have already been mentioned earlier in this report.

General public health duties under the various Acts and Orders of Parliament relating to housing, food hygiene, meat inspection, infectious diseases, pest control, etc., have been carried out by Mr. N. J. Adams.

Other departments connected with the public health of the town are Works and Highways (Mr. J. H. Ferris) and the two sections of the Housing Department. Housing Officer, Mr. T. Holderness. Housing Repairs Supervisor, Mr. L. H. Randall. 139 new Council Houses and 39 private houses were completed during the year.

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON INSPECTIONS AND VISITS CARRIED OUT

Housing	...	...	669	Food & Drugs Act	...	144
Drainage	...	...	122	Butchers' shops	...	55
Infectious disease	...	...	47	Slaughterhouse	...	43
Rodent control	...	...	48	Ice cream shops	...	50
Refuse disposal	...	...	81	Interviews, etc.	...	67
Factories Act	...	...	21			
Total during year	...	...	...	...	...	1347

## **SECTION D**

### **HOUSING**

Following the survey of the district in the previous year it was hoped that steady progress in clearing unfit houses could be made. This work was put in the background due to the continuing expansion of the town to take London overspill population and many unfit houses are still occupied. The completion of some 40 bungalows on sites at Water Eaton and Simpson will be of great help in solving part of the housing problem.

#### **SUMMARY OF HOUSING INSPECTIONS**

1	Total number of houses inspected and revisited ...	...	6691
2	Houses unfit for habitation (these were detailed in report for 1955) ...	...	691
3	Houses not in all respects fit, where notices were served ...	...	23
4	Houses rendered fit by informal action ...	...	33
5	Statutory notices issued ...	...	5
6	Houses rendered fit by formal action ...	...	5
7	Houses closed or subject to agreement not to relet ...	...	4

## SECTION E

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES						51		
Butchers	...	...	...	13	General Stores	...	...	44
Bakeries	...	...	...	2	Public Houses	...	...	21
Dairies (distribution only)				6	Cafes	...	...	4
Ice cream	...	...	...	31				1

2. Number of registered premises : 36.
3. 144 inspections and visits were made to all types of food premises during the year.
4. A film show on hygienic food handling was shown to canteen staffs.
5. Food Condemned, 1956 :

	lbs.		lbs.
January	68	July	74
February	18	August	—
March	57	September	41
April	136	October	61
May	—	November	76
June	73	December	42
Total	...	...	646

Tinned fruit, meat, fish, cheese, etc. Disposed of by tipping on the Council's site adjoining the sewage works.

### 6. ICE CREAM : Heat Treatment Regulations

There are no manufacturers in the district using heat treatment. The two premises that do make ice-cream use the complete cold mix system. There is also a large storage and distributing depot in the district.

Fifty visits to retail shops selling ice-cream were made ; 29 samples were taken, of which 19 were grade 1, 9 were grade 2 and one was grade 3. All samples were taken to the Public Health Laboratory at Bedford for bacteriological tests.

### 7. FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Circulars and leaflets were distributed to food shops in the district, followed by a visit from the public health inspector.

Eleven shops were found to be without adequate sinks and water supply and this was remedied by informal action. Various other contraventions of the regulations may be expected to occur from time to time but frequent inspections should do much to publicise the aim of the regulations.

Weekly visits were made to the cattle and food market, only one stall holder sells open food.

MILK. There are six distributors in the district. All milk is pasteurised at premises outside the district.

**MEAT.** Two private slaughterhouses are licensed, but only one is in use and serves only for one butcher. All other butchers obtain their meat direct from London, Luton or Northampton market.

The number slaughtered was so small that no detailed analysis was found necessary.

Cattle 77 ; Sheep 275 ; Pigs 55. Only 140 lbs. of meat and offals were condemned.

## **SECTION F**

### **FACTORIES ACT**

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and copies forwarded to the relevant authorities.

## **SECTION G**

### **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

#### **1. GENERAL**

A sharp outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during April and May. The causative organism was a paratyphoid type. In all there were 11 cases involving 5 families. In spite of searching investigations in which I was helped by the Epidemiologist from the Central Public Health Laboratory the source of the outbreak was not discovered.

Fifteen cases of mild Sonne Dysentery occurred during the year and here again no definite source was discovered.

#### **2. NOTIFICATIONS**

Measles	...	...	85	Dysentery	...	...	15
Whooping Cough	...	...	3	Paratyphoid (B)	...	...	11
Scarlet Fever	...	...	10	Food Poisoning	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	7				

#### **3. TUBERCULOSIS**

Five new cases were notified during the year and there were seven transfers into the district. It is satisfactory to note that for the third year running there were no deaths.

#### **4. CANCER**

There was a satisfactory drop in deaths during the year, 12 being notified as against 23 in the previous year.